

**OCTOBER, 1936**  
**Vol. 1**

**No. 2**

Five Cents

**Notes of the Month**  
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# **YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW**

**James Ashford    --    --    L. Brown**

**French Youth on the March -- S. Martin**

**World Youth Congress    --    Gil Green**

**Steel -- The Drive Is On**

**by Dave Doran**



# JAMES ASHFORD

**J**IM ASHFORD is dead! It still doesn't seem to be true to those of us who knew him well. Gifted as he was with the driving vitality and deathless courage of the revolutionary youth movement, it just doesn't seem possible.

A great poet once said that there is nothing so tragic as the death of the young. It is even more true to say that there is no greater loss to humanity than the death of a young revolutionary leader.

The loss of Jim from the ranks of the Young Communist League leaves a gap that will be hard to fill. We have lost the best of our leaders who have sprung from the midst of the oppressed Negro people.

All of us who have been fellow workers of Jim have a great duty to fulfill to make up for this grievous loss by increased devotion and activity.

It is well for us to recall the life and work of James Ashford during his years of service and leadership in our movement. We have many valuable lessons to learn from the example of splendid work which marked the activity of Jim in our YCL.

Even before I met him I had heard about the heroic part which he, a relatively new member, had played in the many sharp struggles of the unemployed youth at that time. He was one of the leaders of the Ford Hunger March in which Joe York, YCL District Organizer, fell under the hail of the company's machine guns.

The first thing which impressed me about Jim was his spirited courage to carry on the fight despite all obstacles and dangers. I believe that the finest part of his character, one that always inspired me in knowing him, was his fighting spirit, his dauntless courage.

His activity and studies in our movement, combined with his native talent and rebellious spirit against oppression, made him a splendid type of leader among the youth.

But it was mainly his work as Section Organizer of the YCL in Harlem which showed the stuff of which he was made. For years the section had been in a bad shape. The League was weak and small, separated from the masses of Harlem's young people. This long continued state of affairs was a breeding ground for all sorts of harmful ideas and tendencies.

The ugly smell of white chauvinism existed within the ranks of the League. Among the few Negro members certain nationalistic, anti-white and anti-party tendencies were strong.

It was a disheartening picture, but Jim plunged into the work, confident in the ability of the YCL and our Communist program to win the Negro and white youth to our banner.

Through his inspiring leadership, his forceful example, the League made splendid progress. We remember Jim as the moving spirit in the fight for jobs for the Negro youth. The victory in the Empire Cafeteria fight won under his leadership gave impetus to the general movement of the Negro people in the struggle for the right to work and live.

Jim rallied the League in establishing close connections with the Negro youth in their organizations, and in the churches. It is a tribute to his work that today the Harlem YCL has wide connections among the Negro youth and their leaders in the community organizations.

And Jim was a real builder of the YCL. The fact that today the Harlem section is the largest in size of any section in the country is a shining monument to his memory. I remember how proud we all felt when Jim was presented with the winning banner for his section as the prize for best work in the recruiting drive of 1935. Once again Jim had shown the way by recruiting the best people in his section. That's an example to be followed by every YCL leader—leadership by example.

At all times Jim was a consistent fighter for the Negro people—the most untiring fighter on this front whom I have ever known in the YCL.

At the 6th World Congress of the Young Communist International Jim was placed on the highest body of the world revolutionary Youth movement, the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International. Such an honor could only be placed on somebody who had proven his mettle.

Although his main work in the recent period was in the Harlem section he was one of the organizers of the great National Negro Congress and its youth division. More than anyone else he was responsible for the launching of this movement among the Negro young people. He was the chief initiator of the plans to hold the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference this fall in Richmond.

But comrades, we must always keep alive the memory of James Ashford—to inspire us to greater and better work, and to teach our younger comrades and new members and the thousands who will come into our ranks to work and fight like Jim always did.

For myself I can say that valiant courage, unswerving devotion and loyalty, inspiring Communist leadership, will always be associated in my mind with the memory of James Ashford.

So long, Jim! The entire Young Communist League will always honor your memory as a true son of the Negro people, a brave fighter for the working class, and a real Young Communist.

*Lloyd Brown.*



# YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW

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VOL. I

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The YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW is published monthly by the Young Communist League of the United States, 50 East 13th Street, New York City. Price 5 cents.

## Notes of the Month

### OPPORTUNITY WITHOUT SECURITY

**E**LECTION campaigns always bring out a lot of crack-brained slogans—products of conniving politicians who want to cover their empty program with beautiful-sounding words.

But the slogan advanced by the Landon-Hearst forces to cover the fascist character of their program and the absolute disregard for the problems of youth, takes the cake! Youth want opportunity not security! That is the conclusion to which the brain-trusters of Hearst's pretty-boy Landon have come!

It is the job of the Young Communist League to concretely answer this question. That is not a difficult job. Who ever heard of opportunity where jobs and possibilities for education do not exist? Opportunity as we were taught to understand it in school meant a job, a chance to an education, the possibilities for learning a trade, being able to marry, etc.; in short, to enjoy at least a minimum degree, of security and happiness. Security and opportunity therefore, are inseparable.

Landon's state is a good example of the kind of opportunity he means. Not a cent of state aid is being given for elementary and high school education. Apprenticeship laws, reminiscent of colonial days, state that orphans may be bound out as apprentices by court ruling and that runaway apprentices can be captured and returned to their masters. No state aid to youth exists! If that is Landon opportunity, then it will certainly not be a difficult job to convince America's forgotten generation that they want no part of it!

### SPEED THE AMERICAN YOUTH ACT CAMPAIGN!

**T**WO million signatures demanding the passage of the American Youth Act! This is the goal set for achievement before January 1st by the American Youth Congress. The local Congress in New York City alone has pledged itself to the tremendous task of securing half a million of this number.

The demand for the passage of the Youth Act has been the central issue brought before the youth of the country by the Communist Party and the Young Communist League during the course of the present election campaign. The sentiment created can well be utilized for the

development of the mass movement around the demands for jobs and educational opportunities embodied in the Act.

A most important task before every Young Communist League branch between now and January 1st is the development of the petition campaign and the preparations for a mass pilgrimage to Washington on the occasion of the inauguration of the newly-elected president.

### Y. C. L. PREPARES FOR 8TH CONVENTION

**T**HE announcement by our National Committee in the last issue of the Review of the calling of the 8th Convention of our League for March, is being received with tremendous enthusiasm. Keen interest is aroused by the broad nature which the Convention will assume, with representation directly from every branch of our League.

The National Committee will consider all proposals relative to the convention at a meeting to be held immediately following the end of the election campaign. Branches and individual comrades are asked to send in their proposals and suggestions on the convention now. All of these will be taken into consideration in making the final preparations.

### OPEN THE JAIL DOORS

**J**AIL doors clanged on three young advocates for peace when they started serving long sentences on Monday, October 5. Carolyn Hart whose ancestors were among the early Pennsylvania Dutch settlers got a sentence of from 18 months to 3 years, George Alexander was ordered to a reformatory for 1 year, and Gus Safis was sentenced to 3 months in the infamous Blawnox workhouse. Their crime? Participating in a demonstration for peace on September 1st, 1934, in the city of McKeesport, heart of the steel trust barony.

The Republican controlled State Supreme Court upheld the decisions of the similarly striped Superior Court and Republican Judge Graff, notorious coal operator. This vicious sentence is a taste of what is forthcoming to all peace lovers from the Landon-Hearst-Liberty League Triumvirate.

All organizations of the Young Communist League should send in protests to Governor Earle at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Demand the freedom of the McKeesport defendants, Carolyn Hart, Alexander and Safis!



# The Farmer-Labor Party On The Campus

Celeste Strack



WITH the formation of the American Student Union last December, the student movement entered into a new period of development. We can say that the last eight months have marked a growing maturity characterized first of all by unity of Communist, Socialist and progressive students in one organization, and second by the greatly increased influence which this organization has exerted within the American student body. These factors, together with the steadily growing progressive sentiment within other important student organizations, such as the student Christian movement, have given the student movement the power to secure very real and practical objectives for the American student body.

We now face the necessity of utilizing our forces and increased influence in the most effective manner possible to secure the objectives set by the American Student Union in the field of economic demands, democratic rights, and peace. Up to the present the student body has used varied methods of pressure upon local school authorities, state bodies, and the national government. Although many of these actions have been political in the sense that they involved demands for legislative measures like the American Youth Act, or the Nye-Kvale bill, or that they included pressure upon political groups, we have considered the student movement to be non-political in the sense that it did not align itself with any existing political party. However, for two reasons, we must now begin to consider the question of conscious political action by the student movement.

## *Student Struggles Political*

First, the program and activities of the American Student Union have brought to light certain important political implications. For example, in New York State the fight against the McNaboe investigation of "communist" agitation within the schools is developing along obviously political lines. Not only is the American Student Union calling for widespread student protests against the investigation, but it is considering entering the campaign to defeat McNaboe in his legislative district, as the American Federation of Teachers has already done. It is evident that such a campaign raises the question of backing an independent candidate representing the progressive section of the voters opposed to the policies of McNaboe. Similarly, in many cities, the election of Boards of Education places before the American Student Union the question of what people and what policies will control these boards. Clearly the ASU has real interest in securing progressive control over them, which would facilitate the enactment of measures which the Union favors. Nationally, it is plain that the passage of the American Youth Act or the Nye Kvale Bill could be more easily secured if the campaign for these measures were carried on not only outside of the national legislature, but within it through a bloc of Congressmen and Senators elected to represent the interests of those progressive groups backing the bills. In other words,

*the American Student Union program itself has already made necessary the consideration of independent political action by the student body in conjunction with other progressive forces among the people as a whole.*

The second consideration is that of the relationship of the student movement to the entire progressive movement. The growing desire on the part of unions, farm organizations and liberal professional, middle class, or intellectual groups for independent political organization must necessarily be reflected on the campus. Sentiment for a break with the two capitalist parties and the formation of a farmer-labor party, has already been manifested by sections of the student body. Such interest is wholesome and is a necessary part of the maturing political consciousness of the student movement. Past collaboration with labor and other progressive groups can now be extended into the field of independent political activity in line with the aims of the student movement itself. It should be the task of Communist students to encourage and aid these developments as marking the next stage in the maturing of a powerful student movement; to do otherwise, means lagging behind the student body itself in a tailist manner. Political action is by no means alien to the American campus; political clubs have been a permanent institution in many schools, and have always sprung up around the time of important elections. It is logical to assume that the newest development in the political field, the formation of a farmer-labor party, will strike a sympathetic note in a student body whose experiences in the last five years have prepared for such a development.

We have said that up to this time the American Student Union has considered itself to be non-political in the sense that it has been attached to neither of the two capitalist parties nor to the Socialist or Communist Party. However, the formation of a party representing the interests of the people as a whole, including the vast majority of students, on the basis of a program including student demands is plainly in line with the aims and methods of the American Student Union. The American Student Union already takes part in student body elections on this basis. It is simply a question of extending such activity to a broader field. Such a decision would in no sense replace the campus program of action but would supplement it with a further effective instrument that can strengthen and broaden the scope of the American Student Union. It is now necessary to state in what immediate ways we can facilitate this step toward independent political action.

## *The Elections*

The first and most obvious method is to stimulate discussion of the entire question within the American Student Union, as well as other progressive student organizations. The fall elections present the best opportunity to present symposiums of local and national elections, at which inevitable discussion of the formation of a farmer-

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# Steel - The Drive Is On

by Dave Doran

FROM Youngstown to Birmingham, from Chicago to Pittsburgh, the 500,000 men who toil in the heat of the nation's steel furnaces are talking UNION.

For the first time since 1919 the forces of labor and capital in the steel industry are pitted against each other in an intense battle to decide whether America's basic industry shall be unionized.

There are approximately 125,000 young workers between the ages of 16 and 25 in the industry today. They form a decisive and strategic group holding the balance of success in the present organizational drive in steel.

The great majority of these young workers have been drawn into the industry within the last six months. Prior to this time they formed a comparatively small percentage of those employed. During the six years of crisis and depression only the older workers with large families were able to maintain jobs. And they, on the average, worked only two or three days a week.

Today, however, the situation has changed.

## *Apprenticeship System Used*

The upward swing of production has resulted in an increased need for workers. A short time ago the Homestead mill hired 1,000 young people. Most of them were recent graduates from the local High School. The management hired a special director to imbue them with pro-company ideals and instituted a system of apprenticeship and plant schools, modeled after the Ford plan, to teach them the trade.

Steel workers report that at the Homestead Mill, for the first time, the apprentices are doing the skilled work of crane men, chippers, wire men and rollers, but for much less pay.

The conditions under which young workers are hired throughout the steel regions are not identical. Most mills are hiring them for all departments, in many instances to do highly skilled work—their pay and working conditions being equal to those of the older employees.

Whenever the steel trust, in the past, was threatened with a successful union drive or confronted with a strike situation they hired young people in the hope that they would be a bulwark against the union.

## *Attempt To Bribe Youth -*

The bosses believe that their propaganda for "harmony" and against "outsiders" will be better received by those who are fresh from school and still filled with the spirit of their graduation speeches. The promise of a "steady job" is offered as an anti-union bribe.

In the production of war materials they are more inclined to employ young workers on the assumption that

they are more susceptible to jingo and patriotic propaganda than their fathers. Should a war emergency arise, the young people are considered more reliable.

The steel barons, comprising a large section of the Liberty League, are trying to win the support of the youth for Landon. The Republican candidate's anti-labor record, as well as the anti-union program of his party, would tend to swing the mass of workers against him. The increased employment of youth is demagogically linked with the need to support the reactionaries and their puppet Landon.

This propaganda is extremely dangerous because of the inexperience of young people in elections and their unfamiliarity with the platforms of the older parties.

What are the working conditions confronting the young people who enter the mills?

The August *Labor Review*, issued by the U.S. Dept. of Labor states that common laborers in the steel industry average \$13.21 weekly. The scale of wages for 1935 was: \$12 per week for 21.2% of the workers, \$12 to \$18 for 15.2%, and from \$12 to \$28 for the great majority of the rest.

Most of the young workers recently introduced into the industry hold unskilled jobs. There is a great discrepancy between their wages and those of the steel bosses. Charles Schwab of Bethlehem Steel gets \$125 per hour; Myron Taylor of U.S. Steel, \$83.39 per hour; Crawford of the McKeesport Tin Plate Co., \$112.70 per hour; Crawford of Jones and Laughlin, \$125 per hour; and Tom Girdler of Republic, \$70.39 per hour.

## *Killing Speed-Up Introduced*

The speed-up system plays havoc with those unaccustomed to it. Two young workers, both under 23, were recently killed as a result of it in the Jones and Laughlin plant. This was

revealed only after an intense investigation, resisted tooth and nail by the company.

Undoubtedly the speed-up system accounts for countless other cases of death, unrevealed because they have been successfully covered up by the companies.

Regardless of the steel trust's hopes, the working conditions confronting the youth in the mills and the union tradition around them put them on the side of the working class.

## *Youth Are Not Against Union*

Some comrades have committed the grave error of classifying all the younger workers as potential scabs and anti-union elements. These comrades are playing into the hands of the steel companies. The great number of young people

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# A World Crusade for Peace

by Gil Green



*"We have differing philosophical, political and religious views; we represent various opinions; but we are inspired by the one single wish to save our generation from war. We are inspired by a profound love for humanity and have united in order to fight together, for we are convinced that it is only by doing so that we can make our voice heard and can be enabled to decide on our own future lives."*

THESE stirring words taken from the "Appeal to the Youth of the World", sum-up and express the character and significance of the World Youth Congress which convened in Geneva from August 31st to September 6th. For the first time in the history of the world, youth representatives from thirty-five separate countries came together to unite for a single purpose. For the first time youth of many divergent beliefs joined hands for one common cause—the cause of peace.

While many of the seven-hundred delegates gathered in Geneva came from the far corners of the earth, the Congress expressed great disappointment when it learned that the youth of Germany, Italy and Japan would not be officially represented. The Soviet delegation stated the feelings of the entire congress when it declared: *"We cherish a deep affection for the youth of Germany and we consider indispensable their presence in a world organization of youth against war."*

Despite the intense desire of the assembled delegates to unite on a world scale to preserve peace, the achievement of this unity was no simple matter. It must be remembered that the congress was made up of youth from many different lands. There were youth who came from the large imperialist powers as well as from the smaller capitalist and colonial countries. They came from countries wanting a continuation of the status quo as well as from those demanding revision. They came from countries actively participating in the League of Nations and from countries such as the United States who are completely outside of the League. They came from countries under a democratic form of government, from countries under fascist or semi-fascist rule and from the first proletarian state, the land of the Soviets.

The American delegation was composed of thirty-nine regular delegates and twelve observers. If any of us had left the United States with pre-conceived notions and simple formulas which were to be applicable for the whole world, we soon learned better. We found that conditions in many other countries were different from those in the United States and that for this reason different demands, slogans and tactics were necessary.

Let us take the question of the Oxford Pledge, for example. Could we have asked the World Congress to adopt this pledge to the effect that youth would not support their governments in any war? Certainly Soviet youth could not be asked to accept this pledge. But not only Soviet youth. Could we have asked the youth of Spain who are defending their democratic government with their very lives to accept this pledge? Likewise, could we

have asked this pledge from the youth of Czechoslovakia and France who are facing the danger of a fascist invasion? Certainly not!

The same problems arose on questions of general policy. Let us take the question of tariffs as another example. The American delegation favored a lowering of the tariff walls as a means of fighting growing economic nationalism. This is certainly a correct position to take when it comes to the United States or any other large imperialist power. But it would be wrong to try to apply this as a blanket proposal for the whole world. Why? Because the colonial and backward industrial countries must erect high tariff walls as a protection from imperialism. Otherwise their markets would be flooded with products dumped at cheaper prices by the larger industrial powers. This in turn would defeat the aspirations of the colonial peoples to reach the status of independent countries with an advanced economy.

And so it was with many other questions. The fact that despite such difficulties the final decisions were all adopted unanimously and that the foundation for permanent world youth collaboration was laid, is a glowing testimonial indicating how determined is the will of young humanity to find a common road to peace.

The Congress endorsed the principle of collective security and while criticising the weaknesses and vacillations of the League of Nations, recognized in the League and its covenant instruments that can be used for world peace. Its main reliance it placed not in governments, but in the masses of people who if organized for peace can make known their will to the governments of the world and thru their united strength stop the hands of the war makers.

The Congress recognized the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and sympathized with the deep resentment of the people of a number of countries towards it. The Congress was however categorically opposed to carrying thru revision by a policy of *fait accompli* and aggression, but only thru international agreements. The Congress at the same time expressed itself as favoring the freedom and independence of all people and its opposition to theories of race superiority which inevitably must lead to war.

A permanent continuations committee was established composed of the members from every country, plus one delegate from every affiliated international organization. The two American members are Joseph Cadden of the National Student Federation of America and of the American Youth Congress and Miss Myrtle Powell of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Practical proposals for international peace actions during the coming year were referred to the continuations committee for final decision. A number of these proposals were submitted in the name of the American delegation. The greatest response came for a proposal made by Joseph Lash of the American delegation for an international fast-day. Such a fast day, if adopted, could have a two-fold purpose:

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# Spain Calls For Help

by Gil Green

**W**E were on our way to Madrid on the Valencia-Madrid Highway. We had been travelling for more than a day out of Barcelona and had become accustomed to the many by-products of civil war. So that when we saw a barricade across the road it made no special impression upon us. It was just another barricade.

As we approached we saw behind the steel-drums and sand-bags a group of young peasants with rifles and revolvers. As their leader approached our car to scan over our documents, they tightly held on to their guns carefully watching our every move. Our papers examined, we were just about to start again when the leader of the group leaned thru the window of our car and asked: "Comrades, do you have any bullets with you?"

"Why?" we asked.

The young militia-men hesitated for a second and then began. "As you can see, we have quite a good sized group here. As you can also see we have a barricade and rifles and revolvers. This is all very well, comrades, but it is really a bluff. We do not have a single bullet amongst us. If it came to a showdown we could not defend ourselves. Do you have at least one bullet with you?"

Without a word, the militia-men driving our car opened his revolver, took a lone bullet out of the barrel and handed it to the comrade. Immediately the faces of the boys behind the barricade lit into a smile and their clenched fists rose in salute.

\* \* \*

This is the story of only one barricade near one small village in Spain. The youth of Spain are fighting to save their country from the shame of fascism. They are fighting not only for the honor of Spain but for that of the toilers of the world.

Everywhere we went the story was the same. Plenty of

men, women and youth ready to fight. Heroism galore. But no guns, no bullets, no artillery or planes. And while everywhere we went they asked for arms and ammunition, we could see for ourselves that every other form of aid was also necessary.

We saw youngsters on the Somosierra front in the Guadarama Mountains facing the bitter mountain cold without shoes or coats, their only clothes being a pair of overalls which is their uniform. And we even saw places where uniforms were scarce.

In Madrid we saw lines two blocks long for meat. Sugar and milk were hard to get. Canned foods which are especially suitable for military use were completely lacking.

Despite difficulties such as these the youth of Spain are writing with their own life blood another glorious page for the history of mankind. The Spanish people are determined to win. We must help them win!

The Young Communist League must take the lead. Committees for the defense of Spain must be established in every city and town. The YCL must cooperate with other groups for the opening of headquarters for the collection of food and clothing. Finances should be collected and used especially for the purchase of arms.

Resolutions of protest must be rushed to the President regarding the so-called government policy of neutrality. The government of Spain is the duly elected government of the Spanish people. It alone represents the people of Spain and deserves American recognition. The American government must be forced to drop its discriminatory practice against the government of Spain. The Spanish people have every right to demand open and free trade intercourse between our two countries. **SPAIN CALLS FOR HELP! LET'S RUSH TO HER AID!**





# FRENCH YOUTH

by  
**Sandra  
Martin**

**T**HE membership of the Young Communist League of France more than tripled in six months! That is the remarkable achievement of our brother League. It is a glowing tribute to the correctness of the policies formulated by the 6th World Congress of the Young Communist International and carried into life by our French comrades.

In carrying out the decisions of the Congress, our comrades in France were faced with a different problem than we here in the United States. The YCL of France had before it the job of uniting in one league the already existing youth organizations of the political parties of the Peoples Front.

What are the chief obstacles and objections to organic unity as raised by some of these youth organizations? In the first place, the argument given by some Socialist Youth is that it is impossible to carry through this fusion before the uniting of the workers parties has been carried through. This shows a lack of understanding on the part of some Young Socialists as to the difference between a political party and a mass youth organization and springs from the fact that some of the Socialist youth are entirely dependent on and bound to their Party. Our Party on the other hand has shown the best attitude towards the interests of the youth by giving them the most possible independence, "for without complete independence, the youth will be unable to train themselves into good Socialists or train themselves for the purpose of carrying Socialism further". (Lenin)

The most brilliant answer of all, to this objection of the Young Socialists has been given by the youth of Spain who have proven, by actually combining their strength, that this is not only possible and necessary, but that it is an accomplished and successful fact.

Another objection was one raised by the JEUNES that their organization appeals only to a definite section such as the technicians and that their methods of action and their inner life differ from those of the Y.C.L. In addition to this, they said, the difference in ages must be taken into account.

The Y.C.L. of France has pointed out that in speaking of a united youth organization, it has in mind, not a narrow, rigid body, but a broad, flexible organization which would have a wide range of activities and varied organizational forms.

In the course of the day to day working together of the youth organizations of the Peoples Front, these differences are being ironed out. The formation of the Unity Committee of the Youth Leagues of the Peoples Front (composed of the Y.S.L., YCL and Secular and Republican Youth) was a great step towards the unity of these organizations. It has resulted in working out a series of demands in the interests of the youth of France which are being acted upon by the Blum Government.

Already, in many localities we can see the beginnings of real, permanent unity of these organizations. In the 13th District of Paris the local J.E.U.N.E.S. and the Young Communist League have established a joint headquarters, which has been named "Maxim Gorky", provide educational and recreational facilities for the youth of the neighborhood.

In the 3rd District of Paris the YCL and YSL have worked out a pact to—

1. Put the program of the People's Front into action.
2. Improve the lot of the youth.
3. Educate the youth in a progressive spirit, in the spirit of Socialism by studying the life of the Soviet youth.

They also demanded that their respective central organizations unite.

In Evreux, the united Socialist and Communist youth have decided to invite the Secular and Republican youth into joint action and have expressed the wish "that our respective Leagues bring into motion the unity work so as to very rapidly realize the organic unity of the YCL & YSL".

In Puteaux, in Montargis—everywhere—the movement in favor of a united organization grows irresistibly.

Take the experiences of the youth of Montargis, who are today setting the example for the whole of France. In Montargis, since April 1936, the local organizations of the Y.C.L., the Secular & Republican Youth and the Y.S.L. have been combined in one organization which has proven to be a powerful magnet in attracting the young people of the vicinity. Before the unification the forces of the District could be combined as follows—In Montargis proper—

Socialist Youth	30
Communist Youth	30
Sec. & Rep.	20
	<hr/> 80

In the vicinity and countryside about 30 members in all, making a total of 110.

By July 1936 the united organization had formed two new sections, where previously there had been *no organization at all*, one in Lorris, with 100 members and one in Nogent with 50 members. Applications were received from even the small villages—bringing the total number of members in the District up to 270.

In 3 months the united organization had multiplied itself nearly 2½ times.

With such splendid living examples of united organization, the call of the Central Committee meeting of July 9th of the French YCL to begin such negotiations on a

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# H ON THE MARCH

national scale and to throw open the columns of L'Avant-Garde for a comradely discussion with the youth organizations of the Peoples Front, could only be welcomed by the anti-fascist youth of France.

A united class youth organization in France is today not a vague theoretical question—it is an urgent, immediate necessity for maintaining the democratic rights of the youth of France. Within the next few months, when these rights will have to be defended with greatest energy against the fascist forces, it will be such an organization which will be able to hold aloft the torch lighting the road to a happy future for the youth of France.

The Y.C.L. of France has well understood that building a United Youth League, means not only the close working together with other organizations, but more than ever, the building and strengthening of the forces and authority of the Y.C.L. itself, in order to be able to carry out its tasks.

*From 26,000 to 94,000*  
It is not an accident that from 26,000 members in February 1936 the Y.C.L. of France grew until to day in September it stands at 94,000 strong.

Our brothers and sisters in France have raised the slogan of Action—Education—Recreation. In carrying out this slogan, they have worked out concrete demands and varied broad forms of organization which struck an answering chord in the hearts of the French youth.

The organization of the Y.C.L. has been so reconstructed, as to provide for everything possible that interests the youth with the greatest amount of independence for the branches and clubs.

## *Girls Set Example*

In this connection, the work of the Young Communist girls deserves the highest praise for setting the example to the Leagues of all other countries for work among girls. After the Sixth World Congress, our girl comrades were given the most complete independence. They began to build girls' clubs and centres with special activities that would appeal to girls, courses in dressmaking and homemaking, lectures by prominent writers, doctors, professors and Party workers. The Y.C.L. began to issue a special newspaper called "Young Girl of France" written in a popular style which has a great appeal to girls. In this newspaper the special problems of girls are discussed—articles about the industries in which girls work, the conditions which face the unemployed girls—feminine hygiene—love and marriage, as well as many popular features.

Generally, the Y.C.L. units have been transformed into branches, with headquarters of their own, which are open all day. There are many activities and circles in every headquarters such as: gymnastics, fencing, aeronautics, dance courses, lectures, scouting groups, ping-pong. The branches organize outings to museums, hikes and other such activities. Series of classes, study groups and educational conferences have been organized. These branches are really becoming the centre to which the young people come for recreation and education.

France today has not the same type of compulsory edu-

cation that many states in the U.S. have. Working class children are forced to leave school at an average age of 11 or 12 to find work and thus are deprived of the opportunities of studying. They are deprived of the glorious cultural traditions of their country—traditions of which the working class of France is justly proud.

The Y.C.L. of France in its reconstructed form is not only giving to the French youth, the weapons of struggle, Marxist-Leninist education but also all that is great in the literature, music, and science, the arts and letters of France. It is giving back to young France of today that which had been stolen from them by the Monarchs of capital—their cultural heritage.

## *Leading Strike Struggles*

When the Y.C.L. began to change its character, to broaden out, from all sides came accusations that it was giving up its principles; and predictions that it would lose its class struggle content. The exact opposite proved to be the case. No one can deny that during the strike wave in France, there was *not a single place* where the strikers did not have the full support of the young communists. Besides the leading roles played by our comrades who were themselves involved actively in these strikes, the branches of the League outside of the factories were mobilized to give aid and support. So we see that—

In Colombes delegations of Communist youth went to greet the strikers to whom they distributed cigarettes, cakes and newspapers.

In Plaine St. Denis our comrades supplied 3 factories with coffee and gave movie performances for the recreation of the strikers.

In the 13th District of Paris a collection of 1,200 Francs was made.

In Vitry relief was organized for 8 factories by distributing coffee, sandwiches, and cigarettes and organizing card-games, concerts and discussions.

The Y.C.L. chorus in Levallois sang at striking factories.

These are only a handful of examples of the activities and determination of our young comrades. Every section of France could tell its own story.

In the municipalities, as well, the Y.C.L. is gaining prestige by its help to the young unemployed.

The Y.C.L. is on the road to becoming a real organization of public benefit to the community. In all its actions, its vigilance over the conditions of the working youth, its strike activity, it has proven itself to be the youth organization which today holds aloft the revolutionary traditions of the heroes of France, who shed their blood and laid down their lives on the barricades for the rights and happiness of their people. Today, our courageous young comrades are going forward—nobly carrying on their fight; bringing life and hope to the ideals and aspirations of the French Youth. With the spirit of the Communards to inspire them, the Communist Party and the principles of Marxism-Leninism to guide their footsteps—they cannot fail!

The Youth shall inherit all the greatness that is France!



# Carry On, Comrades by Henry Winston

*In coming issues of the Young Communist Review, this page will take the form of an "Around the League" page to be edited by comrade Winston. If you wish to see your district on the map, let us know what you are doing to build the Y.C.L.*

## FLASH!

*700 people recruited Friday night, Oct. 9, in New York. Thirteen hundred dollars was collected Friday afternoon. These are results, and what results, from Browder broadcast. What was done in your listening in parties?*

A tremendous gap has been created in our Young Communist League by the loss of one of our foremost youth leaders—James Ashford. But those qualities which Ashford embodied, those ideals for which he fought, shall never be forgotten. They will be remembered and cherished by those who knew and worked with him as well as by our entire League and the new thousands who will enter it. Though Ashford is dead, his fighting spirit and enthusiasm will live in the hearts of our young Communists. To Ashford we pledge to carry on the work until those ideals that he fought for shall be realized.

From all over the country come telegrams expressing both the great sorrow of our League at this great loss

tion to develop to be of the same calibre of a revolutionary."

From the South, Sylvia Crouch, state secretary of the YCL in North Carolina:

"Shocked by news of Ashford's death, we pledge to follow the example set by this fearless and capable youth leader."

### *Building a Monument*

Similar telegrams and letters continue to pour in from all parts of the country. All express the determination of the districts, sections and branches to close ranks, to put shoulders to the wheel and to erect a mighty monument to the memory of Jim. That monument must be a membership of 20,000 by January 1st.

By December 1st, we should have reached at least half of our quota. The National Committee has decided to name this drive the Jim Ashford recruiting drive and to award a silver James Ashford trophy to the best district. The trophy will be presented to a delegation from the winning district at a large gathering to be held in New York after the end of the drive.

### *Challenges Begin to Fly*

So far we have only heard challenges in the drive. Detroit, which was defeated in the Young Worker sub drive by Milwaukee, is itching for revenge and has challenged Milwaukee again. Ironwood, likewise, has challenged Milwaukee. Looks like you're in a tough spot Milwaukee! From the heart of the steel area, Lloyd Brown challenges Cleveland and Fritz takes him up! Chicago lets itself in for something by taking on New York.

But challenges are not enough. What are some of the immediate steps necessary for the carrying through of the drive?

1) Strong branch executives should be developed and given concrete guidance from the higher bodies of our League.

2) The executive committee must have an intimate knowledge of its branch membership, must know what sort of work each individual likes and see that they are placed in the proper work. They must see that the membership is clarified on all issues and that they have a thorough knowledge and understanding of our movement, its methods of work, functions, etc.

3) The branch must have an intimate knowledge of the young people in the territory of League work whether it be shop, trade union, neighborhood or mass organization. Without this understanding a successful membership drive will not be forthcoming.

### *Watch for Quality*

In addition to quantity, we must place greater emphasis on the quality of our recruits, with special stress on trade unions and shops. Philadelphia sets an example in this regard. As a result of their work in an important plant, they have succeeded since the strike in building up a shop branch of the YCL of about a dozen members. Cannot this example be followed by other places?

All energy into the drive to reach a membership of 20,000 by January 1st! Carry on for James Ashford!



as well as the determination to carry on. From Pittsburgh, one of Ashford's closest comrades and co-worker, Lloyd Brown wires:

"In the passing of James Ashford, my friend and comrade, we have lost a fearless fighter and leader of the working class and of our Communist Party and Young Communist League. We pledge to intensify our work and bring into our ranks hundreds of new people to carry on the work of our comrade James Ashford."

From far-away Seattle, Max Olson, state organizer, sends the following:

"Passing of comrade Ashford as regrettable as it was startling. His pleasant personality, logic and seriousness will be remembered by all who knew him personally. His premature death moves us deeply and raises our determina-



# Shop Paper Review

by Roy Bell

ONE look at the West Coast papers tell us that the comrades out there are not talking to themselves. They have the stuff:

"Would you like some education?

Join the Center!

Like to study navigation?

Join the Center!

Want to work for unity?

Join the Center!

Want to build a Federation

Envied by the entire nation?

Join the Federation Recreation Center!"

That's from the *Beacon*, published by the Waterfront Branch in San Francisco. This paper is packed full of union news, local and national, international stories, and clever jingles.

## West Coast Good

The *Spirit of '36*, published in San Diego, is a little too general. It features articles on the elections, American Youth Congress and the CIO. This is fine, but this material must be written from the point of view of the people we want to reach. The article on France and the People's Front in *Beacon* should have dealt in large part with the gains (hours, working conditions, pay, etc.) won by the MARINE workers in France. It might have compared John, American sailor, and Jean, French sailor. Then the conclusion that America needs a People's Front would be real and alive to the people who read it.

There ought to be more care taken with the make-up—more white space, double column spreads, etc.

But congrats, West Coast, your papers talk United States and breathe the life of action.

## New York

The N. Y. District has twelve papers published by YCL branches, and there are probably more.

"Who We Are" in the May 30 number of the *Magnet*, issued by the Radio Branch, is OK. It explains that the Radio Branch stands for the amalgamation of the two unions in the trade into an industrial union. The concrete things that such a union would stand for could have been added. Against war and for socialism are good slogans, but they should be explained very simply and tied up with the RADIO industry.

Columns of clever personal notes, neatly class-angled are great. In this connection *Gair Youth News* scores with its two columns, one for each of the shops it covers.

A sympathetic biography of Julius Hochman, showing his part in the building of the ILGWU, is one of the finest and most novel things done yet. More! More!

The inquiring reporter column from the *Bensonhurst Youth Advance* can be used to good advantage anywhere.

*Punch Press*, published by the Metal Branch, rings the bell with a contest woven around the once popular "What's This". Comrades should be on their toes with Knock, Knock etc. Knock-Knock. Who's there? Frieda. Frieda who? Frieda Scottsboro boys. Wow!

## Make Up

Make-up is extremely important. Who wants to ruin his eyes reading a paper? It's a good idea to have different colored paper for the covers. In addition the cover should contain: the date, the number of the issue and who publishes the paper. It is also good to use a standard head so

that young people will get to know it. *Magnet* shows two small magnets, representing the two radio unions, at opposite corners of the front page, attracting each other. *Garment Flash* has the N. Y. skyscrapers split by a flash of lightning to reveal the garment shops.

Pictures and cartoons should be used judiciously but not to fill space. The typing, of course, must be clear and there must be plenty of white space. The stenciling must be done on one typewriter and not on three or four—like the *Bensonhurst Youth Advance*.

*Punch Press* has a splendid make-up: plenty of good illustrations, some small, some large, which break up the monotony of the page, some double column spreads (the words run straight across the page instead of stopping at the middle) and good pictures.

## For the Shop and School

Now for some comradely criticism. The biggest weakness of the N. Y. papers is that they don't tie up the articles with their shops. We would like to shout this out from the rooftops:—Every article, whether about Angelo Herndon, the YCL, or the Soviet Constitution must be written for the particular shop or school.

One example: "Who We Are" in the August issue of *Punch Press* correctly talks about the Farmer-Labor Party, the American Youth Act, unions and Socialism. There isn't one word about what this branch is working for in the PARTICULAR metal shops.

This is the supreme test. Reread your articles and see if they deal specifically with your shop and NO OTHER.

Remember: attractive make-up, snappy language, features, light material, plenty of shop news and when you sit down to write ask yourself that tremendous all-consuming question "What does this mean to all of us in this particular shop, school, 'Y', or industry?"

## A World Crusade For Peace

(Continued from page 6)

1) It could dramatically express the peace sentiments of youth and could practically be used to exert pressure on the governments of the world to take immediate steps to stop the mad arms race; 2) The money saved by the fast could be turned into a huge youth peace fund which would enable the Congress to develop all sorts of peace activities during the year.

The World Youth Congress was an historic turning point for world youth. It marks the beginning of international youth cooperation and collaboration for peace. The Congress provides the medium thru which to broaden the already powerful peace movement of America's young people. All important organizations of American youth with the exception of the Catholic youth organizations were represented at Geneva. By establishing close cooperation on a national scale and by beginning to apply a practical plan of action for the United States, it is not too much to believe that before many months have passed the Catholic youth will also be part of this movement.

The Geneva Congress has adjourned. The delegates have returned to their respective lands and homes. But the work of the World Youth Congress only begins.

In the words of the Congress: "Youth of the world, unite for the defense of peace!"



# Steel - The Drive Is On

(Continued from page 5)

*who have been recruited into the Amalgamated Association of Iron Steel and Tin Workers, the union in the field, are sufficient evidence to forever refute such theories.*

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, (S.W.O.C.) the committee leading the present union drive is conscious of the fact that special methods are needed to win the youth. They are preparing to call youth meetings, issue literature and devote a section of *Steel Labor* to the Young people.

Although young workers are joining the union, the rate of recruiting could be greatly accelerated if the Steel Workers Organizing committee would send a corp of youth organizers into the field and establish special youth departments to organize socials, sports and dramatics. This step is necessary if the union is to affectively counteract the anti-union propaganda of the steel companies.

There are many ways in which the Young Communist League can aid in recruiting young workers into the union.

*Every League Member a Union Organizer!*

Every League member in the steel district must become a voluntary organizer. This can be arranged through an interview with the local S.W.O.C. officials. Our League, because of work already done, has great prestige among the steel organizers. They will welcome our aid.

In every mill where there are Young Communists the system of shop and department committees must be strengthened and, where non existent, revived. The job of these committees is to organize youth activities and issue special youth material.

They must guard against the heavy verbiage and the falutin formulations of the old agitational methods. Snappy slogans and songs, limerick contests and parades of girls carrying such appealing placards as *Build A Home; Join The Union*, have proven very affective. Other good slogans used are *No Girl Loves A Slacker; Join The Union* and *Learn the Art of Self Defense; Fight for Your Rights In The Union*.

Special forms of organizations must be established for those young people who do not want to join the union because they lack an understanding of trade unionism generally or are afraid of losing their jobs if they do so. In these clubs we can teach the young people the advantages of joining the union.

*The company unions are organizing all sorts of social and sports activities. All Young Communist capable of participating in these activities must do so to exert a pro-union influence among these young workers. This is of special importance at present due to the developments within the company unions.*

The fraternal youth organizations sympathetic to our movement must join with the youth sections of the Croation Fraternal Union, Polish Falcons, Sokol and others to call a conference and line up their membership in support of the union drive. The Youth Section of the Croation Fraternal Order with a membership of 28,000, many of whom work in the steel mills, has gone on record to participate in a similar conference being called for the adult organizations. This action should be accompanied by a series of discussion on the union drive within the organizations sympathetic to our movement.

*Youth Congress Can Aid*

The American Youth Congress can play a special role in the steel drive. We must convince them of the neces-

sity of calling a conference of youth organizations to actively participate in the steel drive. Such activity involving Y's, Churches, settlement houses and clubs will wipe out any possibility of these organizations becoming reserves of support for the steel trust.

The Youth Congress should take the initiative in calling youth recruiting meetings for the union; in sending speakers to all S.W.O.C. meetings—we are sure they will be welcome; and in sending organizers into the field.

Because of our limited forces we must concentrate our work in these mills employing the largest number of youth. In Pittsburgh key mills have already been selected for concentration and a city committee of Young Communists has been established to insure the carrying through of our aims.

A succesful organizational drive in steel will lay the base for the broadest development of industrial unionism. The Young Communist League must be in the forefront in winning the youth for the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. Through our work in this drive we will establish our right to leadership among the young people.

## The FLP On The Campus

(Continued from page 4)

labor party will be introduced. An examination of the American Student Union program in terms of its political implication is basic to an understanding of the relation of the student movement to the political scene.

Second, after thorough and mature consideration of the problem we should suggest that chapters of the American Student Union, along with other organizations, go on record as favoring independent political action, preliminary to some decisive action by the national convention this December. Obviously, the specific nature of the convention hinges upon the precise form which the farmer-labor movement assumes.

Third, we should explore the possibilities for cooperation with local progressive political groups, farmer-labor parties, and the like. The program of the American Student Union at present eliminates affiliation. However, there is a wide range of cooperative actions that can be carried on. Exactly what type of action should be taken must be determined on the basis of the local situation, the attitude of the membership of the ASU, the nature of the local political group, and so on.

All of these steps are necessary for a natural transition into more concrete and widespread political action. A word of warning against premature, unconsidered action should be uttered. The important job at this point is to prepare the student body thoroughly for further steps.

In no sense should we regard this development as restricting the scope and influence of the American Student Union. Rather, we regard it as an opportunity to increase the significance of the Union and enlarge its influence and membership. Coupled with our educational and preparatory work, we must intensify our efforts to consolidate the ASU organizationally.

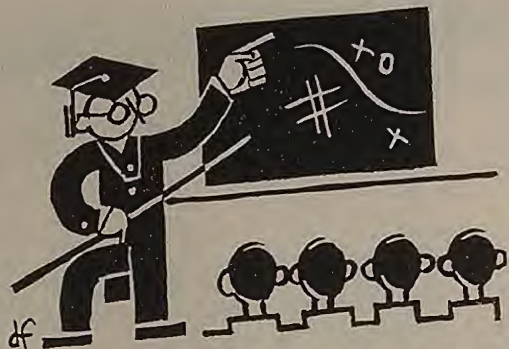
It is clear that the problem of independent political action is not one imposed by us upon the student movement itself, and the relation of the student body to political and social events within and without the campus. Independent political action, cooperation with a farmer-labor movement, is the next step toward a mature student movement.

Young Communist Review



# How Much Do You Know?

by Dave Richards



**B**RANCHES and leading committees—let's see how well you're up on what's doing.

Following is the first of a series of monthly tests of current events. If you're well up on your current reading, you should be able to pass it with flying colors. If you don't come out so well, this will convince you that you will have to do some more studying if you're going to answer the questions that young people have in their minds.

We suggest you follow this procedure.

1: No peeking. Don't look at the answers until you've gone through the entire test—and written down your answers.

2: Don't try to take the test until you come to your branch meeting. Then let everybody take the test together—and see who gets the best score in the branch. A low level in the branch will indicate that more education is needed.

3: Send the Young Communist Review your branch's score. We want to find out what the best branch score in the entire country is. If you think the test is too hard, or too easy, let us know.

Try to improve your score from month to month.

4: Section councils and state committees should send in their scores too—and see how they compare with those of the branches.

5: If you answer all of questions 1, 2, 11, 13, and 17 correctly, you get 5 points for each question. For all others, one point for each correct answer.

## THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

1: Match the following candidates against the main slogans they put forward in the election campaign.

- |              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1: Browder   | 1: Against the economic royalists |
| 2: Thomas    | 2: Roosevelt & ruin.              |
| 3: Lemke     | 3: Americanism vs. Communism      |
| 4: Landon    | 4: Socialism vs. capitalism.      |
| 5: Roosevelt | 5: Democracy vs. fascism.         |

2: Match the following parties or groups with the best description of them

- |  |
|--|
| 1: Social Democratic Federation.       |
| 2: Labor's Non-Partisan League.        |
| 3: American Labor Party.               |
| 4: Washington Commonwealth Federation. |

1: Left wing Democrats on record for the formation of a farmers-labor party.

2: New York branch of Labor's Non-Partisan League.

3: Organization set up by the Old Guard which left the Socialist party.

4: Trade union organization supporting Roosevelt, but committed towards the idea of a labor party.

4: "Landon's election might stiffen the spine of labor" was a statement made by (1) Hearst (2) Thomas (3) Browder (4) Coughlin (5) Marcantonio.

4: American reaction suffered a blow when one of the following suf-

fered a defeat in the primary elections (1) LaGuardia (2) Talmadge (3) Brann (4) LaFollette (5) Lehman.

## THE LABOR MOVEMENT

- 5: The sole member of the executive council of the AFL to oppose the illegal expulsion of the CIO was (1) Wm Green (2) Hutcheson (3) Dubinsky (4) Lewis (5) Hillman.
- 6: Hearst reaction suffered two severe blows through strikes in (1) Seattle and San Francisco (2) Milwaukee and Seattle (3) Seattle and Minneapolis (4) New York and Milwaukee (5) Milwaukee and San Francisco.
- 7: The application of the British Communist party for admission to the Labor Party was (1) Tabled (2) Accepted (3) Rejected (4) Denied the floor (5) Accepted conditionally.
- 8: The ancient "kick-back" racket was recently defeated through a successful strike of (1) Seamen (2) Elevator operators (3) Carpenters (4) Railroad workers (5) Painters.

## SPAIN

- 9: The General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain is (1) Jesus Hernandez (2) La Passionara (3) Largo Caballero (4) Jose Diaz (5) Indalecio Prieto.
- 10: Following the fall of Irun, the Spanish government was reorganized on the basis of the Peoples' Front, with Communists participating, because (1) The liberal and republican elements were deserting the loyalists (2) that government more nearly approached the relationship of forces among the defenders of the government (3) Left republicans refused to act any longer as stooges for the radical parties (4) The issue is now one of an immediate struggle for a Socialist Spain.
- 11: Match the following men with the parties they represent in Spain:
 

1: Prieto	1: Communist
2: Caballero	2: Centre Socialists
3: Companys	3: Left Socialists
4: Azana	4: Moderate Republicans
5: Hernandez	5: Catalan Nationalists.
- 12: Which of the following factors in the Spanish Civil War operate in favor of the People's Front and Loyalist forces (1) Arms from abroad (2) Support of the masses (3) Influence among the trained army officers (4) Sympathy of the world labor movement (5) Possession of the basic Industrial sections of Spain (6) Security in possession of the territory in which they have military occupation.

## WORLD POLITICS

- 13: Match the following countries with recent events in their history:
 

1: Recurrence of mass strikes	1: Poland
2: Reestablishment of French alliance	2: Rumania
3: Cabinet shift favorable to Nazis	3: Greece
4: Establishment of Fascist regime.	4: Portugal
5: Revolutionary outbreaks in fleet.	5: France
- 14: The position of the French Communist Party today is (1) Against Blum's "neutrality" policy towards Spain but against overthrow of Blum government (2) Complete endorsement of all acts of Blum government (3) Disillusionment with Blum government and for a struggle to establish a more left government.
- 15: Hitler's support to the Fascists in Spain is given because (1) He is opposed to the anti-Catholic policies of the People's Front of Spain (2) He wants a market for his airships and munitions (3) He hopes that a Fascist government in Spain would inspire a successful Fascist rebellion in France (4) He is afraid that Russian influence in Spain would encircle Germany.
- 16: Hitler's unprecedented Nuremberg provocations against the USSR indicate the danger of war on a WORLD scale because (1) England, France, and the USA would not allow Hitler to attack the

(Continued on page 15)



# Minnesota Moves Ahead

by Carl Ross

This is the first of the discussion articles that we asked districts to send in on the basis of a discussion of the article of comrade Gil Green in the last issue. We are waiting for further discussion articles not only from leading comrades in districts but from comrades in branches and sections as well.

**"YOU** haven't a single thing to lose by joining those who demand a change. We need youth to help make over this sick and palsied structure in which we have to live into a better and finer social order."—by Governor Floyd B. Olson.

Such speeches as this by the outstanding leader of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party helped to convince our Young Communist League that the Farmer-Labor youth movement of Minnesota would be the basis of the united youth league of which the Sixth World Congress spoke.

Our League reacted to the Minnesota Junior Farmer-Labor association soon after the January Conference of the YCL, having already had some months of experience in this work. Our state committee declared:

"The Young Communist League must assist in building the Junior Farmer-Labor Association, help to make it an organization with a working class program and activity, that will educate the youth in the spirit of struggle against Fascism, for peace and socialism."

At this time we saw the Farmer-Labor youth movement as a movement already dedicated to building a new social order. We called upon these youth to unite with us for building socialism. We did not see, at that time, that the American youth is not yet ready to travel the road to socialism, and must first place its feet upon the path of independent political action through a people's Farmer-Labor movement.

Such a narrow approach to these Farmer-Labor youth, based upon an appeal for joint struggle for a new social order, somewhat sharpened the "red scare." When we corrected our line and approached the movement from the broader basis of winning the young people for support of the Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota, we found a readier response.

It is today clear to our membership that the basis upon which the united youth movement will be established will be the Farmer-Labor Party movement.

The efforts of our League, together with progressive young people, resulted in doubling the number of members and clubs in the Junior Farmer-Labor Movement in the period between January and midsummer. These clubs reflected all the weaknesses of the Farmer-Labor Junior Association, its weak leadership, and its inability to overcome the resistance of sections of the Farmer-Labor Party to building a youth movement. For these reasons, the activity and life of the clubs has been weak, and the membership of most of them has not been actively involved in educational, cultural, and other activity.

The setting up of a State Organization Committee in May, representing seven organized counties, was a definite step forward and stimulated the growth of the clubs to some extent. Yet when it became evident that the leadership of this committee was unable to obtain cooperation from the Farmer-Labor Party and was unable to give adequate leadership, the Junior movement became practically stagnant.

Our experience clearly demonstrated that an active elec-

tion campaign among the youth is a most vital necessity if we are to have an organized Farmer-Labor youth movement.

In the course of this campaign it is possible for us to reach the largest sections of youth and to convince them of the need for a Farmer-Labor Party. An active election campaign in Minnesota should assure us that after the elections are over we will have a basis of a strong Junior Farmer-Labor Association and a much larger Young Communist League.

The establishment of a State Volunteer Youth Campaign Committee for the Farmer-Labor Party has been a step in this direction. The activity of this committee should lay the basis for active organizational work to follow the elections.

## *An Independent Movement Necessary*

Our experiences in building these Junior clubs and in working to transform them into genuine united youth organizations immediately indicated that such a movement as this, in order to grow and to develop in a progressive direction, must be independent and have the right to select its own leadership and allow freedom of activity and discussion for the Communist and Socialist youth within the organization.

The Minnesota Junior Farmer-Labor movement has to date been an auxiliary movement of the Farmer-Labor Association rather than an affiliated youth organization. The regulations for its organization are laid down by the senior Association. It has not been allowed as yet to call a State Convention to select its leadership. This narrowing of the autonomy of the organization has stifled enthusiasm and killed the initiative of the members to a great degree.

It is our opinion that the main perspective must be in the direction of an independent progressive Junior Farmer-Labor Association, based upon the influence of the Farmer-Labor Party, supporting that Party, and receiving active assistance from it.

## *Y. C. L. Must Be Built*

Most serious of our shortcomings in our work has been our failure to build the Young Communist League. Tendencies to liquidate the League were expressed in a number of places, where the task of building the Junior Association was artificially separated from the task of building the Y.C.L. We did not recruit enough through our activities, or educate and develop our membership sufficiently.

This failure to build the League is all the more serious a problem in this period when the influence and prestige of the League has increased many times over.

The necessity for building our League was clearly stated by our July conference, which said, "It is clear that while we draw all our forces into building the Junior Farmer-Labor Association, at the same time our Y.C.L. must be broadened and built. This is necessary in order to bring the masses of youth a more clear and firm working-class program and policy than that brought forward by the Junior Farmer-Labor Association at this time."

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## How Much Do You Know?

(Continued from page 13)

USSR (2) The Communist parties in all countries would start civil wars as soon as Hitler attacked the USSR (3) Hitler can only attack the Soviet Union by first attacking the independent states which lie between the USSR and Germany (4) World opinion would be mobilized by the Jews against Hitler (5) All countries are looking for the first opportunity for war, because they cannot solve their own internal problems.

### GENERAL

17: Match the following countries with the stage of unity of the working class achieved there.

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1: Spain      | 1: Trotskyite influence main block to unity of SP & CP.                 |
| 2: Catalonia. | 2: Youth leagues united.  |
| 3: France     | 3: Socialist & Communist parties in united front                        |
| 4: Austria    | 4: Parties United into one party.                                       |
| 5: U. S. A.   | 5: Socialists and Communists negotiating underground for organic unity. |

18: Trials in the Soviet Union recently exposed the connection between assassins, and terrorists with (1) Trotsky and Hearst (2) Hitler and Mussolini (3) Trotsky and Hitler (4) Trotsky and Mussolini.

19: Militant unionists are facing the danger of death through a frame-up trial for "murder" in (1) New York (2) Chicago (3) Pittsburgh (4) San Francisco (5) Atlanta.

20: The Young Communist League works to build the American Youth Congress as (1) The youth section of the Farmer-Labor Party movement (2) A united organization of revolutionary young people (3) A clearing house through which organizations can initiate united front actions (4) The broadest front of the young generation, to fight for the immediate needs of the youth (5) A forum for the exchange of viewpoints among the youth.

## Answers

- 1: 1 & 5; 2 & 4; 3 & 2; 4 & 3; 5 & 1  
 2: 1 & 3; 2 & 4; 3 & 2; 4 & 1  
 3: 2  
 4: 2  
 5: 3  
 6: 2  
 7: 3  
 8: 5  
 9: 4  
 10: 2  
 11: 1 & 2; 2 & 3; 3 & 5; 4 & 4; 5 & 1  
 12: 2, 4, 5 & 6  
 13: 1 & 2; 2 & 3; 3 & 4; 4 & 5; 5 & 1  
 14: 1  
 15: 3  
 16: 3  
 17: 1 & 2; 2 & 4; 3 & 3; 4 & 5; 5 & 1  
 18: 3  
 19: 4  
 20: 4

## In The Footsteps of Frederick Douglas

YOUTH of Dixie are gathering their forces for what promises to be a historic Congress, to be held in Richmond, Virginia, in February.

It will be the first all-Southern conference of youth ever attempted. Called together by the Youth Section of the National Negro Congress, it can truly be said that this Congress has all the possibilities of arousing to action those potential reserves of power that exist in the mass organizations of youth of the Southland. It will issue the clarion call for the struggle against the oppression and discrimination of Negroes and more particularly the youth. It will carry on the fight for those ideals of an America without oppression, that were held so dear by Frederick Douglass and other leaders of the Negro people.

The Young Communist League of the South has the job of throwing its full energies into this campaign in order to help insure the greatest representation from every possible southern youth organization.

The Young Communist League of the North, as token of its solidarity with those young people who are working under such tremendous odds in the South, has just as great a job. It is their job to see that the necessary finances for the carrying through of the conference are raised. Without this financial backing the entire work for the Congress will be crippled.

Great effort is required on the part of the entire League to insure the success of the First All-Southern Youth Conference.

### WHO'S WHO AMONG OUR CONTRIBUTORS

ROY BELL, *Member of National Educational Committee*

LLOYD BROWN, *District Organizer of Pittsburgh*  
 DAVE DORAN, *Formerly District Organizer of Pittsburgh and now National Trade Union Secretary of the Y.C.L.*

GIL GREEN, *National Secretary of the Y.C.L., recently returned from Spain*

SANDRA MARTIN, *Member of National Educational Committee*

DAVE RICHARDS, *Former Editor "Western Young Worker"*

CARL ROSS, *State Organizer of Minnesota*

CELESTE STRACK, *National High School Organizer of the American Student Union*

HENRY WINSTON, *Administrative Secretary of the Young Communist League*

The following cable was received from the Young Communist International:

"Executive Committee Young Communist International wishes to express its deep sorrow on the death of comrade James Ashford, member of Executive Committee Y. C. L."

Signed: Wolf Michal.



# Extra! Extra!



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